

WEATHER REPORT

MT. VERNON AND VICINITY—
Snow tonight, probably changing
to rain Friday. Warmer.

The Democratic Banner

Only Knox County Newspaper
Receiving The Associated
Press Report.

ESTABLISHED 1888

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HENRY WATTERSON, WELL KNOWN JOURNALIST, PASSES AWAY TODAY AT HIS WINTER HOME IN FLORIDA

Death Comes Suddenly From Heart Disease; Members Of
(His Family At His Bedside; Publisher Of The Louis-
ville, Ky., Courier-Journal For Many Years; Born In
Washington, D. C.; Was Interested In Politics For
Many Years.

[By Associated Press to The Banner]
JACKSONVILLE, Florida, Dec. 22—

Henry Watterson, one of the coun-
try's best known journalists and form-
er owner and publisher of the Louis-
ville, Ky., Courier-Journal, died at a
local hotel at 6:15 this morning.

Col. Watterson's death was unex-
pected, although it had been known
for some days that he was ill.

The veteran publisher had been
here about six weeks as was his cus-
tom on his annual trip to Florida. His
wife, son and daughter were at his
bedside when he died.

Col. Watterson's death was due to
heart failure, superinduced by conges-
tion of the lungs, according to physi-
cians. He was conscious for a few
minutes at intervals and 30 minutes
before his death. Members of the
family said his death was peaceful.
Col. Watterson having lapsed into un-
consciousness again a few minutes be-
fore he passed away.

The body of Col. Watterson, it was
said by his son, Henry, would be placed
in a vault here until spring when it
will be taken to Louisville for burial.

Henry Watterson, born in Washing-
ton, D. C., Feb. 16, 1840, was one of
the last of the old time personal jour-
nalists. More than half a century his
editorials, with their brilliant, original
and phrase-making composition, at-
tracted wide attention. They were
commented on and copied by the press
of the nation. Besides his power in
molding public opinion through his edi-
torials Watterson's influence is cred-
ited with having shaped the platform
of the Democratic party in more than
one presidential campaign.

It was perhaps through an accident
that Henry Watterson pursued jour-
nalism. Early in life he evinced un-
usual musical talent and his parents
encouraged it. A mishap that crushed
his left thumb, leaving that member
stiff, caused the musical education to
be abandoned, as the piano was his
favorite instrument.

A natural bent for writing developed
but even in this Mr. Watterson was
seriously handicapped as an illness in
infancy had affected his vision. His
first journalistic experience was gained
on a Washington, D. C., newspaper
as musical and dramatic critic. His
father, Harvey M. Watterson, for
twenty years preceding the outbreak
of the war between the States, was a
representative in Congress from Ten-
nessee. It was during this time Henry
Watterson laid the foundations for
an elaborate knowledge of national
affairs, he spending much of his time
associating with party leaders of that
period and in close contact with the
operation of the government.

Watterson's course in letters and
journalism in the national capital was
interrupted just as he attained his
majority by the outbreak of war.
With his father, he opposed the seces-
sion movement, but upon the declara-
tion of hostilities, he returned to his
Tennessee home, and joined the army
of the Confederacy. He served
throughout the war, except for a per-
iod of ten months, when he estab-
lished and operated at Chattanooga,
Tenn., "The Rebel," a semi-military
paper.

His service as a public official was
confined to a fractional term in Con-
gress. He accepted a seat there in
1876-77 at the wishes of Samuel J.
Tilden, with whom he was closely al-
lied. Mr. Watterson refused re-nom-
ination for the full term. Frequently
urged to run for high office he always
refused, maintaining "I shall stay
where I am. Office is not for me. Be-
ginning in slavery to end with pov-
erty it is odious to my sense of free-
dom."

From 1872 to 1892 however he sat at
all national conventions of the Demo-
cratic party as a delegate-at-large
from Kentucky. He presided over the
convention that nominated Tilden in
1876 and was chairman of the Plat-

form Committee in those of 1880 and
1888.

Mr. Watterson opposed William
Jennings Bryan in his candidacy for
president in 1896, but in 1900 the
Courier-Journal gave him lukewarm
support. In 1908, however, what Mr.
Watterson denominated as the "free
silver heresy" being "as dead as Afri-
can slavery" in the United States, he
became a warm supporter of Bryan.

In 1918, Mr. Watterson sold his in-
terest in the Courier-Journal to Judge
Robert W. Bingham, of Louisville, who
also purchased stock of other own-
ers, and Watterson retired from edi-
torial responsibility and place, ac-
cepting for several months the title
of editor emeritus. In the spring of
1919, he resigned that position and
since then he has been living a whol-
ly retired life, interrupted only occa-
sionally by a letter to a newspaper on
a public topic or an interview granted
to some roving reporter.

One example of his characteris-
tic style is found in a letter, written in
October, 1921, regretting that age ren-
dered inadvisable his attendance upon
the Confederate reunion at Chattan-
ooga. "It cannot be long," he wrote,
"when we shall meet on that beautiful
shore, and, when we meet, be sure the
Bonnie Blue Flag will be flying at the
fore and the bands will be playing
'Dixie' on parade, whilst the pretty
girls will be distributing 'The Chat-
tanoooga Rebel' to groups of ragged,
red-nosed angels who have not forgot-
ten the rebel yell."

BURGLARS GET LARGE AMOUNT

[By Associated Press to The Banner]
YORK, Pa., Dec. 22—Burglars early
today broke into the Mt. Wolfe bank
and stole \$100,000 in securities from
safety deposit boxes. They forced a
window and cut through the vault
doors with an acetylene torch. Locks
on 80 deposit boxes were broken off
with a hammer.

SENTIMENT FOR TREATY LOSING

[By Associated Press to The Banner]
DUBLIN, Dec. 22—The Daily Eire-
ann, after considering the Anglo-Irish
treaty at morning and afternoon ses-
sions today, adjourned at 5 p. m. un-
til 7 o'clock this evening, when an
all-night sitting is expected.
The optimism which the supporters
of the treaty have been displaying
during the last two days appeared
somewhat diminished, however, be-
fore the morning session had ended.
When the daily adjourned for lunch the
impression seemed generally that
sentiment for the treaty had lost
some votes, and that the result of the
vote was highly uncertain.

RUSSIANS TO RECEIVE AID

[By Associated Press to The Banner]
WASHINGTON, Dec. 22—Final leg-
islative action on the bill appropriat-
ing \$20,000,000 for the relief of Rus-
sia's starving to purchase grain was
taken today by senate adoption of the
conference report. It now goes to the
president, whose signature, congress-
ional leaders hope, would start ad-
ditional relief as America's Christmas
gift to the Russians.

New Orleans Declares War on Argentine Ants



New Orleans has broken the peace existing between the Americans. Fortunately, however, nothing but the lives
of several hundred thousands of lowly ants are at stake. It appears an army of ants, known as Argentine ants,
has been disturbing the peace of that town so much so that government action has been started in the form of
experimental stations where 350,000 cans, filled with a honey-poison mixture, are being prepared for distribution.
This photograph shows a scene at one of the stations, where the mixture is being prepared.

INVESTIGATION INTO PRICES

Attorney General Daugherty
Says Prices Of Food, Fuel,
Shoes and Clothing
Too High

[By Associated Press to The Banner]
WASHINGTON, Dec. 22—Investiga-
tion of retail prices of food, fuel, shoes
and clothing in all parts of the coun-
try was ordered today by Attorney
General Daugherty.

Mr. Daugherty said in many locali-
ties prices are too high and retail
profits were "unconscionable" and
that every effort would be made to
put retail prices on the proper level.

Mr. Daugherty instructed Director
Burns of the justice department to
assign men as soon as possible to var-
ious parts of the country to collect
information upon current retail prices
of foods, fuel, shoes, clothing and at
the same time to report the wholesale
prices of corn, wheat, beef, masts of
all kinds and on the hoof, in order
that comparison might be made of the
retail and wholesale prices of food.

In many parts of the country, Mr.
Daugherty declared, retailers have
organizations which tend to keep
prices high.

NO TRACE OF BANK BANDITS

[By Associated Press to The Banner]
COLUMBUS, Dec. 22—No trace had
been found today of the five bandits
who yesterday held up W. D. Todd,
cashier of the Steelton-branch of the
Citizens Trust & Savings bank and
escaped with \$7,713.11 in cash.

CONGRESS VOTES TO RECESS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22—A con-
gressional recess from today to Jan.
3, was voted yesterday when the
house adopted the senate resolution
to that effect.

FOCH SENDS GIFTS TO FRIENDS HERE

[By Associated Press to The Banner]
BOSTON, Dec. 22—Yuletide gifts
from Marshal Foch, in gratitude for
hospitality, expended on his American
tour have begun to arrive here.

Six officers of the American Legion
in this city have been remembered
with initialed silver cigarette cases
lined with gold and engraved with the
signature, "F. Foch."

FORD'S PLAN DISALLOWED

Cannot Reduce Freight Rates
On The D. T. & I.
Railroad

[By Associated Press to The Banner]
WASHINGTON, Dec. 22—Henry
Ford's attempt to reduce freight rates
on coal 20 per cent along the line of
his railroad, the D. T. & I., was dis-
allowed today by the interstate com-
merce commission.

The commission based its action on
the ground that the reduction would
constitute a discrimination against
other mining territory of coal, the
product of which is sold in Toledo,
Detroit and other cities along the
Ford railroad.

If the proposed reduction were al-
lowed to stand, the commission said,
competing lines in southern Ohio not
located on the D. T. & I. road would
be unable to continue operation, and
mines in Pennsylvania, West Vir-
ginia, Kentucky and Tennessee would al-
so be affected by undue preference in-
volved in the lower freight rates.

OPPOSITION FROM JAPAN

[By Associated Press to The Banner]
WASHINGTON, Dec. 21—Japan
will formally oppose any discussion
of the validity of the "21 demand
treaty of 1915," if the matter is
brought up by China as expected in
tomorrow's meeting of the far eastern
committee of the armament confer-
ence, it was said today in responsible
Japanese circles.

U. S. INVITED TO MEMBERSHIP

Allied Council Has Plan To
Assist Central Europe
And Russia

[By Associated Press to The Banner]
LONDON, Dec. 22—The allied su-
preme council at its coming meeting
will be asked to invite the interested
powers to appoint a commission to
elaborate a comprehensive scheme for
the rehabilitation of central Europe
and Russia. This conclusion was
reached in the conference of the
French and British premiers just end-
ed here.

The United States would be invited
to have a membership in this com-
mission. Germany also would be re-
presented.

HARVEY GIVEN AN INVITATION

[By Associated Press to The Banner]
PARIS, Dec. 22—An invitation to
attend the meeting of the supreme
council next month has been extend-
ed to George Harvey, the American
ambassador at London. The meeting
is scheduled to open Jan. 4.

PEN PRISONER HIDING OUT

[By Associated Press to The Banner]
COLUMBUS, Dec. 22—An all-night
search of the big prison this morning
had failed to give penitentiary offi-
cials any trace of Paul Mason, 24, from
Youngstown, who disappeared yester-
day and who is believed to be hiding
out inside the prison walls. Mason
was serving a sentence of six to 15
years for burglary.

EXPLOSION IN COLUMBUS IN WHICH SEVERAL PERSONS LOST THEIR LIVES; MANY ARE HURT

Gas Lets Go In Front Of The Wright Store On East Main
Street; Entire Neighborhood Is Shaken By The Blast;
Establishment Crowded With Christmas Shoppers At
The Time; Several Of Injured Not Expected To Live.

COLUMBUS, Dec. 22—Three per-
sons are known to have been killed,
and a score, injured, several so
seriously that they may die, when an
explosion wrecked the Wright store,
116 East Main street, at 4:45 yester-
day afternoon.

Cause of the explosion is a mys-
tery. It is believed to have been due
to gas, accumulating under the side-
walk, presumably from a leaking
main in the street. How it ignited is
a further mystery, but the force of it
seemed to have been centered in the
forepart of the basement of the build-
ing.

Clerks and shoppers were the vic-
tims, while pedestrians, too, were in-
jured as the sidewalk was torn asun-
der and hurled into the air. Persons
in automobiles were hurt also, and
machines parked along the street
wrecked. Surrounding buildings were
damaged and windows in those for a
block distant were broken.

Firemen and police worked hours
searching the debris for bodies, and,
after three hours, all were believed
to have been removed. Victims were
carried from the scene into furniture
stores, chiefly the Val Loewer and
Cotter-Tann firms, and from there
hurried to hospitals in touring cars,
trucks and ambulances. Those most
badly hurt and unconscious were re-
served for the ambulances.

The store was crowded when the
tragedy happened. In the basement
and first floor, where a majority were
sorting over bargain counters, those
were hurt the more seriously. On the
second and third floors, clerks and
customers were showered with over-
turned counters and display cases
jammed from against walls, but none
was badly hurt in those regions.

A fireman rushed toward the shat-
tered building and the flame of his
lantern ignited gas still escaping. He
was enveloped in sheets of flame and
burned badly. The gas burned fur-
iously for over two hours, and proved
a great aid to searchers. It illumi-
nated the entire interior of the base-
ment and lower floor, and quicker aid
to those buried and trapped was af-
forded by its light.

Passing in an automobile as the
explosion happened, M. J. Mercer,
24 East Noble street, an auto deal-
er, kept driving until he reached
Fourth and Main streets. There he
jumped out of his auto and turned in
a fire alarm, first notice of the
tragedy. Then he telephoned ambu-
lance companies and returned to the

scene to help remove the victims.
Reports that gas had escaped into
the building since Tuesday were giv-
en police and firemen. A janitor
stated he smelled it and notified the
management, which promised to "look
into it" today. Source of the vapor
could not be traced last night. Other
reports were to the effect that gas
was smelled when the building was
erected two years ago.

Over 100 policemen were at the
scene within a few minutes after the
explosion. They were drilling at the
workhouse, for the parade tomorrow,
and, under orders of Chief French,
commandeered all vehicles passing
that place to reach the explosion.

Several small blazes broke out in
the ruins during the hunt for bodies,
but were extinguished promptly with
chemical lines.

First conveyance to arrive was a
police patrol. Officers MacFarland
and Stormont said they picked up
three women, two unconscious. One
was minus a foot, blown off, and an-
other's eyes were torn nearly out.
They were first to be received at St.
Francis hospital, where the staff of
physicians was hurriedly called and
put to work.

A general alarm was turned in by
police for ambulances. In short or-
der they poured into the scene and
kept streaming to and from it for
over an hour.

Many persons, only slightly hurt,
were taken to physicians' offices at
various places or to their homes in
automobiles. Their names were not
learned, and other than bruises or
cuts from flying glass or debris they
were not hurt badly.

The explosion was so terrific that it
tore away the entire sidewalk, twist-
ing the steel rods that reinforced the
concrete binding around them into
many shapes. Blocks of cement were
hurled across the street. Several
boxes of dry goods and garments
were blown from the main floor and
basement into the street.

Luckily, supports under the build-
ing proper did not give way to the
explosion and drop the floors. Coun-
ters, shelves and interior fixtures
were broken into a veritable mass of
kindling and from being crushed un-
der them were most of the victims
hurt.

Beneath debris in the basement
rescue workers found a woman.
Stuck through her cheek was a pair
of scissors. She was unconscious.

SHIPPING PLAN IS GIVEN EXPLANATION

Presentation Made By L. C.
Welsh At Milford Center
Community Meeting

A Community meeting was held at
Milford Center in the grange hall on
Wednesday evening. Some 25 or more
of the representative citizens of that
portion of Knox county were present
to hear a discussion of the plans for
the promotion of live stock shipping
in the county. The bureau recently
has inaugurated a change in its meth-
od that it is hoped will prove greatly
to the increase of the marketing done
from this county.

L. C. Welsh, secretary of the Farm
Bureau, presented the new system to
his audience in a manner convincing
of its manifest advantages.

PLUMBERS END STRIKE
CINCINNATI, Dec. 22—The plum-
bers in Cincinnati, who went on strike
Dec. 5 for restoration to their former
wage of \$1 an hour, returned to work
Wednesday at a new scale of 95 cents,
offered by the Master Plumbers' as-
sociation.

STATE TRUCK HITS WORKMAN AUTO

Collision At High and Mul-
berry Sts. Late Wednes-
day Afternoon

The intersection of High and Mul-
berry streets was the scene of a colli-
sion, late Wednesday afternoon, be-
tween a Buick car driven by Harley
Workman of Buckeye City and a truck
of the Ohio Highway department.

Mr. Workman had been driving
north on Mulberry street and purpos-
ed turning west on High street. He
was unable to clear and make the turn
in time and his car was hit by the
truck which was carrying a load of
brick. The car was badly damaged by
the collision.

Neither Mr. Workman nor Mrs.
Workman, who was with her husband,
suffered any injury.

REV. BALLANTYNE DIES

[By Associated Press to The Banner]
TORONTO, Ont., Dec. 22—Dr. Jas.
Ballantyne, 64, former moderator of
the Canadian Presbyterian general as-
sembly, died Wednesday.

Governor Small in Court in Waukegan



The case against Gov. Len Small of Illinois, accused of conspiring to defraud the state out of \$200,000 while
state treasurer, is being heard in Waukegan, and this photograph was taken during the preliminary proceedings
there. Governor Small is the second man from the left.